



Osler School's Grade 4 and 5 choir performed at their Carol Festival on December 8.
- photo credit: Osler School on Facebook



Prairie Spirit Board holds organizational meeting

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education held its annual organizational meeting on November 28 and elected its Chair and Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. Bernie Howe will serve another term as Chair, with Kate Kading continuing to serve as Vice-Chair. As part of the organizational meeting, all Prairie Spirit Trustees were assigned to a variety of roles on Board Committees for the 2022/23 year.



Bernie Howe has served as a Board of Education Trustee since 1991, representing Delisle, Vanscoy, Perdue, Pike Lake and Willow Park Hutterite Colony in Subdivision 6. Bernie served as Prairie Spirit Board Chair in 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Howe thanked his fellow Trustees for his re-election as Board Chair for a third consecutive one-year term. "This kind of continuity shows a confidence and cohesiveness in our board," he said. "There is a growth in our division, our strategic planning process, and our vision for the future that will strongly support our students and their families. We've all had challenges these past few years, but it has inspired innovation and different ways of thinking, keeping our Board on the leading edge of education."



Kate Kading has served as a Trustee for Subdivision 2, representing Duck Lake, Hague and Rosthern, since Board elections in November 2020. She served her first term as the Board's Vice-Chair in 2021/22.

"I am honoured to be serving as the Vice-Chair for a second year with Bernie as the Chair. It's exciting to be part of a Board and a division so committed to innovation and yet still keeping foundational learning at the core of the decisions we make. I'm looking forward to continuing to return to in person events so we can further showcase Prairie Spirit and the achievements of our learners," Kading said.

Provincial Board involvement



Kimberly Greyeyes, Prairie Spirit Trustee representing Muskeg Lake Cree Nation (Subdivision 11), was re-elected to lead the Indigenous Constituency at the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) annual general meeting in November. In this role, she is part of the SSBA's provincial executive and is the first Indigenous woman to be part of this leadership team. This is Kimberly's fourth consecutive term as the Indigenous Constituency Representative at the SSBA. She was first elected to this position in 2019.

"It is an honour to be returning to the SSBA Executive as Indigenous Constituency Representative. I look forward to leading and supporting the very important work underway to advance Truth and Reconciliation action in education for the benefit of all Saskatchewan students," Greyeyes said.

Annual Report 2021/22

Prairie Spirit's 2021/22 annual report was approved by the Board on November 28. The approved audited financial statements will be added to the annual report and the full report will be tabled in the provincial legislature in December. The complete annual report will be posted on the Division's website and on the legislative assembly website.

The report contains an overview of the school division's actions to support the interim provincial education plan (PEP) during the 2021/22 school year. The key areas of the PEP are:

Reading: This priority area addresses students' reading needs given that some students' reading skill development was interrupted during the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Learning Response: This priority area addresses students' learning needs given that students have experienced significant academic learning interruptions as well as widely varied contextual and personal experiences because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mental Health and Well-Being: This priority area addresses the mental health and well-being of students and education staff in response to how the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified mental health concerns.

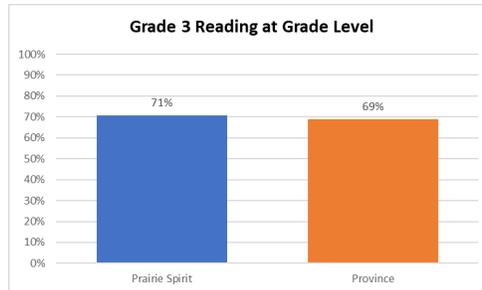
The annual report presents the school division results in the areas of reading, graduation rates and early years evaluation, along with other indicators. The report also includes the provincial results in each of these areas.

Prairie Spirit results 2021/22

Grade 3 Reading

Prairie Spirit classrooms have a strong focus on literacy and reading. Prairie Spirit wants students to read for pleasure, learning and growth and to cultivate a lifelong love of reading.

Prairie Spirit's results for Grade 3 reading in 2021/22 were lower than previous years and slightly higher than the provincial results.

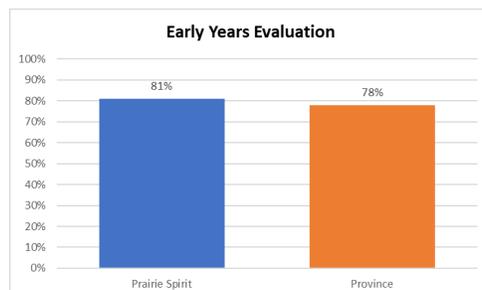


Early Years Evaluation

Prairie Spirit has a strong focus on early learning to ensure students have the best possible start in their education.

The Early Years Evaluation-Teacher Assessment (EYE-TA) is a readiness-screening tool that provides information about each child's development and learning with a focus on reading readiness skills.

By spring 2022, Prairie Spirit Kindergarten students showed an improvement of 18% from Kindergarten entry in fall 2021. At 81%, the Division's result for Kindergarten exit exceeds the provincial results of 78%.



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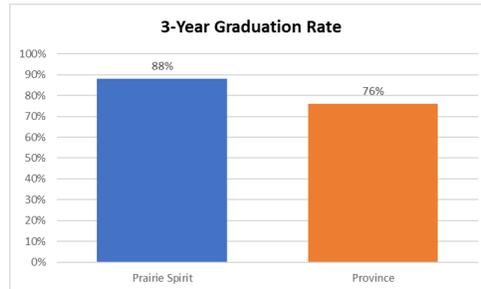
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3-year Graduation Rate

This is a measure of the percentage of students who graduate within the three-year period after beginning Grade 10 (“on-time graduation”).

Prairie Spirit wants graduating students to have real choice after high school because they can collaborate, communicate, create, solve problems and engage as contributing citizens.

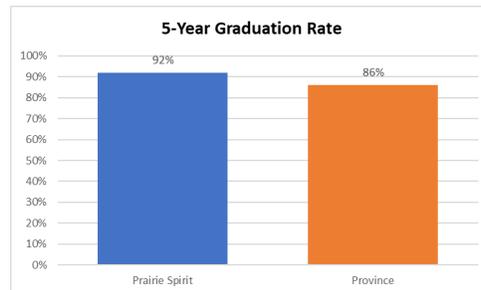
Prairie Spirit’s on-time graduation rate was 88% in 2021/22, 12% above provincial results of 76%.



5-year Graduation Rate

Some students need more time to complete all the courses necessary to graduate, so they continue in school longer than the typical three years after beginning Grade 10.

Prairie Spirit’s 5-year graduation rate (extended-time graduation rate) was 92% for 2021/22 (compared to 86% provincially), down slightly from the previous year.



Assessment in Prairie Spirit

Paul McTavish, Coordinator, made a presentation to the Board on December 19, to provide an update on the Division’s assessment practices and revised progress reports.

McTavish highlighted the Division’s changes to Grade 1 - 9 assessment, which now uses descriptive levels for both academic achievement and learning behaviours, replacing a numbered grading scale. He said the descriptive levels provide better feedback to students and parents than the numbered scale. While percentages are a familiar practice for parents, the descriptive levels provide stronger feedback for student progress as the levels are aligned with the curriculum outcomes, he explained.

**Parent Assessment
[website](#)**

The Division’s progress reports have been revised and shortened to reflect the ongoing feedback and information that parents receive throughout the school year. “The role of the progress report is to check to ensure that a student is progressing as expected,” he explained. “Parents are receiving frequent communication from teachers throughout the year.”

McTavish noted that while there have been some changes to assessment, many of the Division’s established assessment practices continue, in alignment with the provincial guidelines “[Supporting Student Assessment in Saskatchewan](#)” and the Division’s admin procedure: [AP-414 Assessment](#). The Division’s assessment practices are also aligned with the provincial education plan, which focuses on the importance of “effective assessment practices that guide and strengthen responsive instruction.”

More information is available for parents on the Division’s Parent Assessment [website](#). Families and schools are partners in education and the Division encourages strong communication between families and teachers. Families who have questions about their child’s assessment are encouraged to contact their child’s teacher.

French Immersion program expansion

The French Immersion program at École Warman Elementary School (ÉWES) will expand to include Grade 6 for the 2023/24 school year, as part of the long-term plan to add a grade each year to this program. The Board approved this program expansion at its meeting on December 19. Next fall, the French Immersion program at ÉWES will include Kindergarten to Grade 6 classes.

Plans are being made to ensure that the Grade 6 French Immersion students at ÉWES will be able to participate in extra-curricular and other Grade 6 group activities with their age-alike peers at Warman Community Middle School, while having opportunities for leadership and participation at ÉWES.

ÉWES also offers a full English program for students from Pre-K to Grade 5.

Trustee Highlight



Adin Dereniwski has served as a Trustee for Subdivision 10 (Warman) since Board elections in November 2020. She is the Chair of the Board's Learning Committee and is a member of the Staff Recognition Committee. She is also a member of the Prairie Spirit Schools Foundation Board.

Adin grew up and attended school in Warman and has two children in Prairie Spirit schools. She chose to become a Trustee to help build relationships in our communities, to be a voice for stakeholders and to advocate for the Division.

"Being a Trustee allows me to be a liaison between families, teachers, community, and Division," she says.

She is honoured to be a Trustee and is very excited to finally be able to meet school staff and SCC members in person. "I feel very grateful to serve as Trustee and to continue to learn along the way," she says.

Adin says highlights of her work as a Trustee include hiring a new Director and working on the Division's renewed Strategic Plan. She appreciates the strong community response to the Board's strategic plan survey earlier this year.

Adin is a private music teacher who teaches piano, voice, ukulele, song writing, junior choirs, production and helps students learn how to be independent performers and artists.

She loves to help people and has been an active fundraiser for Telemiracle over the past four years, along with her husband and children. She has served on the City of Warman Recreation Board as a volunteer and plans to join the Kinettes in the New Year.



Adin joined other Trustees and Division leadership on a tour of Clavet Composite School in November.

Prairie Spirit Board of Education

 <p>Subdivision 1 Pam Wieler Blaine Lake Laird Leask Waldheim Green Leaf, Riverbend + Leask Colonies</p>	 <p>Subdivision 2 Kate Kading <i>Board Vice-Chair</i> Duck Lake Hague Rosthern</p>	 <p>Subdivision 3 Ken Crush Borden Langham</p>
 <p>Subdivision 4 Christa-Ann Willems Dalmeny Hepburn Osler</p>	 <p>Subdivision 5 Angela Bothner Perdue Lord Asquith Eagle Creek Colony Sunnydale Colony</p>	 <p>Subdivision 6 Bernie Howe <i>Board Chair</i> Delisle Pike Lake Vanscoy Willow Park Colony</p>
 <p>Subdivision 7 Dawne Badrock Clavet Dundurn Hanley South Corman Park Hillcrest Colony</p>	 <p>Subdivision 8 Grace Wudrick Aberdeen Allan Colonsay Lost River Colony Riverview Colony</p>	 <p>Subdivision 9 Bonnie Hope City of Martensville</p>
 <p>Subdivision 10 Adin Dereniwski City of Warman</p>	 <p>Subdivision 11 Kimberly Greyeyes Muskeg Lake Cree Nation</p>	

